

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
439 3rd Avenue South  
Clinton, Iowa 52732  
Phone 563-242-7391

Vol. 94 No. 12

**THE**

**COURIER**

**December 2024**



## **Blessed Advent and Christmas!!**

Dear Partners in Ministry,

As we move into December, some of you look forward eagerly to moving south for a few or several months. Others of you look forward with delight to the changing of the seasons and the beauty of snow-covered trees and sidewalks. As we prepare during Advent for the coming of Christmas, some of us have already eagerly moved into Christmas mode; others will steadfastly cling to Advent until December 24 arrives.

And some of you are grieving or feeling sad this year, and you may simply be counting the days until it's all over. For all of us — eager, patient, or in pain — hear these words:

*Each winter as the year grows older, we each grow older too,  
The chill sets in a little colder; the verities we knew seem shaken and untrue.*

*Yet I believe beyond believing that life can spring from death,  
that growth can flower from our grieving,  
that we can catch our breath and turn transfixed by faith.*

*O Child of ecstasy and sorrows, O Prince of peace and pain,  
brighten today's world by tomorrow's, renew our lives again;  
Lord Jesus, come and reign!*

ELW Hymn #252, verses 1, 3, 5; Text: William Gay, ©1971 United Church Press

Such is the promise of Advent and Christmas. Such is the reason we celebrate Advent and Christmas. Because in the birth of Jesus, God became human in Jesus and promises to transform pain into hope and death into life. My prayer is that your Advent and Christmas will be filled with the blessings of hope and life—regardless of whether you feel merry or not.

Peace—*Pastor Julie*

**Please join us for Christmas Eve Worship,  
Tuesday, December 24, 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm**

## Note these Extra-Special Worship Events in December!

Weekends in Advent, November 30-December 22

Lighting Advent Candles

Gradually Decorating the Sanctuary

Traveling Nativity Figures



Saturday and Sunday, December 7 and 8

Choir Christmas Cantata

*Prophets and Angels:*

*An Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols*



Sunday, December 15, 9:00 am

Faith FUNdations children and the Christmas story

Christmas Eve—Tuesday, December 24

4:00 pm Praise Band; 7:00 pm Organ

Both services: Carols, Candles, Children's Time, the Christmas story!

Trees, ornaments, greenery, poinsettias, lights

Mary, Joseph, Jesus and the Shepherds arrive at the stable!



Christ is Born!!



Saturday and Sunday, December 28 and 29

More Christmas Carols!

Because Christmas is a Season, not just One Day!

## **"Community Assistance Fund" Holiday Weekend (Dec 6-8)**

Zion's Social Ministry Committee is very excited to host the 41st annual **Virtual and Silent Auctions AND Brunch!** This weekend is a fund raiser for Information, Referral, and Assistance Services (IRAS) to help families in need who live in our community.

A "Virtual Auction" will be held via Zion's Facebook page beginning **FRIDAY**, December 6 at 5:00 pm and will end **SATURDAY**, December 7 at 5:00 pm. The auction items (all new) will include gift baskets, quilts by Zion's quilters, baked goods, gift cards, Christmas themed decorations, etc.

On **SUNDAY** morning, December 8 we will be hosting a holiday brunch in the Dining Hall from 10:00-11:30. A delicious buffet of breakfast casseroles, biscuits & gravy, crepes, homemade cinnamon rolls, breads, fresh fruit, juices and coffee will be served. In addition, there will be a "Silent Auction" with additional items available for bidding. NO reservations needed. ALL are welcome. There will be a Free Will Offering with all proceeds going to IRAS.

All are welcome to donate baskets, baked goods/candies for auction. Contact Deb Vath 243-5333 with questions. Thank you!

### **Upcoming Church Directory!!!**

Our new church directory is coming together thanks to the support of our members. The company that we will be working with is "Instant Church Directories". Instant Church directories helps us to create a directory that is easy to maintain and has the ability to be updated at any time. The directory will be online but does have the ability to be printed. There will also be a mobile app that be utilized on a smartphone. The directory will be private with members only having access to it. We do need an administrator and one to three editors to assist in maintaining the directory's accuracy. If anyone is interesting in helping with this project, please contact Linda Dutchess at (563) 202-4418.



### **Call Committee Meeting with the Congregation**

The Call Committee will meet with the congregation on **Saturday, December 7**, immediately following worship. This is a terrific opportunity to hear how they are planning to describe Zion to potential pastors. The committee will also share the results of the surveys you filled out about what are the most important gifts and tasks for our next pastor to have.

If you missed the November opportunity and can't attend on December 7, please feel to contact any of our Call Committee members: Tom Bass; Jeanne Crow; LeAnn DePue; Jim Pillers; Ryan Veenstra; Trent Weaver.

# Faith FUNdations

Faith FUNdations has had a busy month. We recently donated our offering to My G.E.A.R. Outreach. My G.E.A.R. Outreach is a non-profit organization committed to bringing comfort and hope to children (0-18) year of age during the tough transition of entering foster care for the first time. There is more information available on their program in the Narthex.

**Some important dates to keep in mind:**

The Christmas Program on December 15<sup>th</sup> during the 9:00 service.

On December 18<sup>th</sup> we will be going caroling. We encourage all parents to join us, however if your child is in a car seat we especially ask that you go with us and drive your child. We will leave after the family meal at 5:45pm.

There will be no Faith FUNdations or Confirmation on December 25<sup>th</sup> or January 1<sup>st</sup>.

We will resume on January 8<sup>th</sup>.



## **Come Join the Holiday FUN!**

We extend an invitation to our Zion family and friends to join Faith FUNdations in Christmas Caroling on Wednesday, December 18, at 5:45 pm. As in the past, we will leave Zion in two groups to carol to our members who reside in area nursing facilities or are in their own homes. We then return to Zion to enjoy cookies and hot cocoa.

Please consider joining us to spread Christmas love to our senior members. If you have any questions, please reach out to Barb Rhoades.

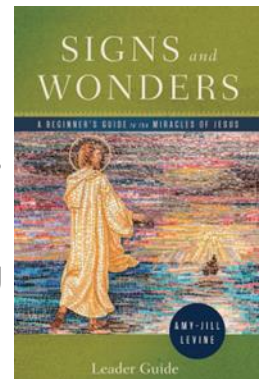
# New Zion Library Books for December 2024



**The Paris Library** is a novel by Janet Skeslien Charles that starts with Odile, a young woman who works at the American Library in Paris in 1939. When the Nazi's occupy Paris, Odile and her fellow librarians join the Resistance with the best weapons they have: books. The novel continues in 1983 with Lily, a teenager who is intrigued by the air of mystery about her elderly, solitary neighbor from Paris. The two of them share a love of language and books, never suspecting that a dark secret connects them too. Donated by Linda Smith.

New on our shelves are two books that describe “remarkable events that shaped history”: ***It Happened on the Oregon Trail*** by Tricia Martineau Wagner and ***It Happened on the Lewis and Clark Expedition*** by Erin H. Turner.

***Signs and Wonders: A Beginner's Guide to the Miracles of Jesus*** by Amy-Jill Levine recounts the most prominent miracle stories in the Gospels and asks the questions “what does it mean?” and “so what?” “We become more than readers of these stories; we discover how to be recipients and participants in the ongoing, miraculous work of God.” From the Joyce King Memorial fund.



The fourth book in Karen Kingsbury's series, ***Rejoice***, is another heart-warming novel about the Baxter family. It's “a story of unspeakable loss and the overwhelming miracle of new life.” Donated by Denise Forney.

## ZION'S BOOK CLUB

Zion's Book Club will meet in the church library on Wednesday, December 18th at 10:00 a.m. We will be reading and sharing various Christmas novels (we have quite a few on our Christmas shelf) and bringing a small food treat to share. Join us for our Christmas party!





# Silent Auction and Brunch

December 8, 2024

10:00-11:30

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

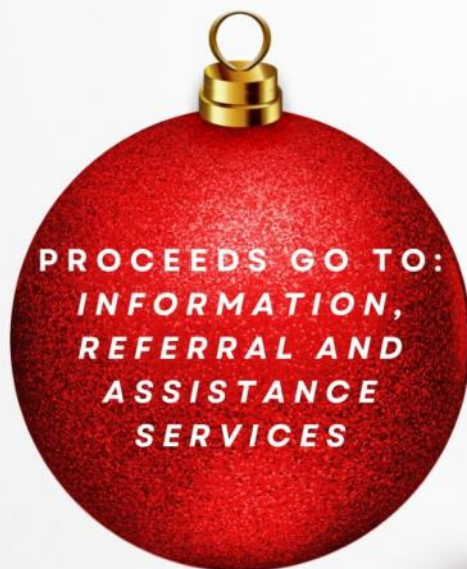
# Virtual Auction

December 6-7, 2024

ZION FACEBOOK PAGE

*See you there!*

PROCEEDS GO TO:  
INFORMATION,  
REFERRAL AND  
ASSISTANCE  
SERVICES





Clinton Ministerial Association  
Hosts  
National Homeless Persons'  
Memorial Day,  
an Ecumenical event at  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Saturday, December 21, 2024  
@ 2 p.m.

St. Paul Lutheran is located at 715 South 3rd Street, Clinton, Iowa  
Park in the back of the church.

**Held annually on the winter solstice and longest night of the year, National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day is an opportunity to remember those we have lost too early due to the violence and effects of homelessness.**

**Weather permitting, we will gather on the front lawn of the church, otherwise we will meet in the fellowship hall inside the church.**

**A free holiday meal follows.**



# Worship

**Worship services are:**                      **Saturdays**    **5:30 pm**  
    **Sundays**       **9:00 am**  
**Christmas Eve, December 24**    **4:00 pm and 7:00 pm**

**Radio Broadcasts on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am on KROS 105.9 FM or 1340 AM.**

## SACK LUNCH MINISTRY

**THANK YOU 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Graders!!!**



Everyone can be involved in Zion's Sack Lunch Ministry! Check this out!! Our amazing Faith FUNdation kids decorate our sacks each month and add a special napkin. But that's not all.....they choose the "sticker message" each month. For November, they decided on "Faith Family Friends.....Give Thanks!" If you would like to get involved, check out the sign-up sheet in the Narthex!

## ZION'S PRAYER CHAIN

Did you know Zion has a prayer chain with people who are ready to pray for you? If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayer, please notify the prayer chain by calling Helen Steen at 563-243-2288 or Mary Lou Mallicoat at 563-357-2963. All information is kept confidential; only first names are used on the prayer chain. Please ask permission if requesting prayers for someone other than yourself from either the person or a family member of the person.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the prayer chain, please contact Helen Steen at 563-243-2288 or Mary Lou Mallicoat at 563-357-2963.







## ***DON'T FORGET YOUR UNDERWEAR!!!!!!***

*Again this year, the Social Ministry Committee is collecting donations of socks and underwear that will be distributed to area children through the Holiday Network.*

*You may drop off your donations of socks or underwear in the collection boxes in the Narthex or the Gathering Space. Please drop them off by December 8. Shop for any age child, boy or girl.*

*Not up to shopping this year???  
Make a cash donation and we will shop for you.*

## **FINANCIAL CORNER**

### **October 2024 at a glance**

<b>General Operating</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>Year To Date</b>
Income +	\$24,147.05	\$278,473.11
Expense -	\$29,289.98	\$306,283.34
Difference =	-\$5,142.93	-\$27,810.23

## **October In-Person Worship Attendance**

<b>Weekend</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Total</b>
October 5 & 6	59	104	<b>163</b>
October 12 & 13	61	95	<b>156</b>
October 19 & 20	57	122	<b>179</b>
October 26 & 27	61	90	<b>151</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>162</b>

# COUNCIL NEWS

## Summary of Congregation Council Minutes – October 8, 2024

*(The full minutes are posted on the bulletin board near the church office.)*

**Pastor's Report:** Council reviewed Pastor Julie's monthly report printed in the Council packet.

**Membership Update:** Travis Morehead shared the Statistical Report for September. The average attendance of In-Person worship for September was 148 per week. YTD, the total In-Person attendance is 5,797 and the average weekend worship attendance YTD is 145. Congregational Membership as of month end September is 566 Baptized Members and 471 Confirmed Members.

**Treasurer's Report:** Deb reported that as of September month end, giving in Pledged envelopes and Unpledged envelopes is at 84% of pledged giving. Expenses were reviewed and YTD Income vs Expenses is (\$22,667). Deb gave a review of all funds. A motion was made by Linda Dutchess to approve the Treasurer's Report. Laurie Behrens seconded the motion. All ayes.

### Old Business:

**Portico/Canopy Update:** It was reported to the Council that all work has been completed on the Portico/Canopy project and we are waiting for the final bills. Treasurer Deb Vath brought before the Council a motion that the cost of the striping and repairs be paid out of the Forward in Faith funds. Dennis Andersen seconded the motion. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**Budget Process - 2025 Budget:** All budget reports from the committees are due back in early November.

**Stewardship Committee Report:** Linda Dutchess reported from the committee that Stewardship material would be out by the end of October.

**Pictorial Directory:** Linda Dutchess explained to the Council the process of creating an Online Directory. There will be many advantages to this format.

### New Business:

**Greatest Needs Committee Update:** Tabled until the November Council meeting.

**God's Work. Our Hands.** will be a collaborative venture with St. Paul and Faith Lutheran Andover joining Zion.

DECEMBER 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00 AM: Worship	<b>2</b> 5:30 PM: Elizabeth Circle	<b>3</b> 5:00 PM: Executive Committee 5:50 PM: All Committee Night	<b>4</b> 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/Bible Study 5:15 PM: Faith FUNdations/Confirmation 5:30PM: Bell Choir 6:30 PM: Adult Choir	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 5:00 PM: Silent Auction begins	<b>7</b> 3:30 PM: Greatest Needs Committee 5:00 PM: Silent Auction Ends 5:30 PM: Worship 6:30 PM: Call Committee meets with congregation
<b>8</b> 9:00 AM: Worship 10:00 AM: Silent Auction and Brunch	<b>9</b> 10:30 AM: Sack Lunch Monday 5:00 PM: Girl Scouts 5:30 PM: CHS Orchestra and Choir Concert	<b>10</b> 5:30 PM: Boy Scouts 6:00 PM: Congregation Council	<b>11</b> 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/Bible Study 1:30 PM: Rebecca Circle 5:15 PM: Faith FUNdations/Confirmation 5:30PM: Bell Choir 6:30 PM: Adult Choir	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 5:00 PM: Girl Scout Service Unit Meeting 7:00 PM: Clinton Symphony Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 8:00 AM: Childcare Christmas Program 1:00 PM: Clinton Symphony Rehearsal 5:30 PM: Worship 7:30 PM: Clinton Symphony Concert
<b>15</b> <i>Deadline for Courier articles</i> 9:00 AM: Worship with Children's Christmas Program 10:30 AM: Adult Confirmation	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 5:30 PM: Boy Scouts	<b>18</b> 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/Bible Study 10:00 AM: Zion Book Club 1:30 PM: Rebecca Circle 5:45 PM: Christmas Caroling with Faith FUNdations 5:30PM: Bell Choir 6:30 PM: Adult Choir	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 2:00 PM: Community Memorial Remembrance @ St. Paul Lutheran 5:30 PM: Worship
<b>22</b> 9:00 AM: Worship 10:30 AM: Adult Confirmation	<b>23</b> 5:00 PM: Girl Scouts	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> <i>Office Closed</i> 4:00 PM: Worship 7:00 PM: Worship	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:30 AM: Courier Assembly	<b>28</b> 5:30 PM: Worship
<b>29</b> 9:00 AM: Worship	<b>30</b> 9:00 AM: Quilters	<b>31</b> 5:30 PM: Boy Scouts	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
439 3rd Avenue South  
Clinton, Iowa 52732  
Phone 563-242-7391  
Vol. 94 No. 11

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Clinton, Iowa  
Permit No. 84

## ZION'S STAFF

**Pastor Julie Higgs, Interim Pastor**  
[pastorjulie@zionlutheranclinton.org](mailto:pastorjulie@zionlutheranclinton.org)  
Phone: 563-242-7391  
515-468-7118

◆  
**Kelly Bork, Director**  
Zion Child Care Preschool  
Phone: 563-243-9393  
[zioncc-ps@hotmail.com](mailto:zioncc-ps@hotmail.com)

**Amanda Deuermeyer, Office Administrator**  
Phone: 563-242-7391  
[officeadministrator@zionlutheranclinton.org](mailto:officeadministrator@zionlutheranclinton.org)

◆  
**Donica Vonderohe, Staff Musician**  
[music@zionlutheranclinton.org](mailto:music@zionlutheranclinton.org)

◆  
**Patrick Hoffman, Custodian**

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday  
9:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.